

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKORNBLUM:LR  
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE  
EB/AV:JMAGNOR  
S/S - MR. REDDY

-----240139Z 115232 /60

P R 232344Z DEC 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310528

STADIS////////////////////////////////////  
EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH UK EMBASSY ON BERLIN-LONDON  
CHARTER PROBLEM

REF: LONDON 20153

1. EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE ON DECEMBER 23  
DISCUSSED BERLIN-LONDON CHARTER PROBLEM WITH UK EMBASSY

COUNSELOR MICHAEL PIKE AND EMBASSY OFFICER JAMES CORNISH.  
NOTING THAT THE DISCUSSION WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A  
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RESPONSE TO COMMENTS OF FCO DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY  
HIBBERT (REFTEL), VINE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. DEPARTMENT WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT DECEMBER 16 MEETING  
COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTOOD THE  
DIFFICULTIES DESCRIBED BY HIBBERT AND AGREED THAT THERE

WOULD HAVE BEEN NO SENSE TALKING IF THERE HAD BEEN NO HOPE FOR SUCCESS.

B. DEPARTMENT FULLY SUPPORTED FCO'S DESIRE TO STRESS THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF BERLIN AVIATION. IT HAD BEEN INCORRECT TO CONCLUDE FROM FACT THAT US DELEGATION WAS BEING HEADED BY STYLES THAT WE WERE INTERESTED

IN PURELY COMMERCIAL DISCUSSION. VINE POINTED OUT THAT US SYSTEM DIFFERED FROM THAT OF UK IN THAT CIVIL AVIATION WAS HANDLED MORE DIRECTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. STYLES WAS CAREER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WITH EXPERIENCE IN POLITICAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF CIVIL AVIATION. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUED TO BE INTERESTED IN HELPING THE FCO STRESS THE POLITICAL BASIS FOR BERLIN AVIATION. IF A CHANGE IN DELEGATION CHIEF WOULD FURTHER THESE EFFORTS, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE.

C. THE MAIN TASK NOW WAS TO GET THE TALKS SCHEDULED AGAIN. VINE SAID HE WOULD HEAD THE US DELEGATION, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE COMPOSED OF KORNBLUM FROM EUR/CE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR AVIATION DIVISION. WE SUGGESTED THAT THEY BE HELD IN BONN AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE DATE WOULD BE SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 24. VINE NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAYS AND THE UPCOMING INAUGURATION PERIOD, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE US SIDE TO MEET ANY EARLIER. HE HOPED THE UK WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFIRM ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THIS TIME PERIOD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
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D. WHILE THE TALKS WOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS, THE DEPARTMENT WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT A COMMERCIAL ISSUE WAS ALSO INVOLVED. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO NOT FREE FROM COMMERCIAL PRESSURES AND IT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO DISCUSS ONLY THE POLITICAL SIDE. VINE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WISE TO MAKE CLEAR FROM THE OUTSET THAT THE QUESTION OF PAN AMERICAN SERVICES TO LONDON WOULD HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY DURING THE TALKS.

E. A FURTHER QUESTION CONCERNED FRENCH PARTICIPATION. VINE RECALLED THAT WHEN AGREEING TO THE DECEMBER 16 MEETING, THE FRENCH HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THEY CONSIDERED THE PROBLEM TO BE A PURELY COMMERCIAL MATTER. THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE TREATED DELICATELY WITH THE FRENCH, TO ENSURE THAT THEY DID NOT REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE. SINCE THE

BRITISH HAD PROPOSED THE TALKS IN THE FIRST PLACE, VINE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR THE UK TO DISCUSS THE NEXT ROUND WITH THE FRENCH.

2. PIKE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT'S COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO THE ISSUE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD REPORT CLEARLY TO LONDON THAT COMMERCIAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE TREATED. HE AGREED ALSO THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW TO ENSURE FRENCH PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY. PIKE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE BRITISH TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE FRENCH. HE PROMISED TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY.

3. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS WITH UK OFFICIALS, ADDRESSEES SHOULD UNDERLINE OUR FEELING THAT PROGRESS REGISTERED IN AGREEMENT TO HOLD TALKS SHOULD NOT BE ENDANGERED BY LONG DELAY  
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IN ARRANGING NEW ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS. LATE JANUARY DATE IS SUFFICIENTLY SOON TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING TIME FOR NECESSARY PREPARATION. UNTIL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH BRITISH, POSTS SHOULD NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE OF DISCUSSING POSSIBLE NEW ROUND OF TALKS WITH FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, MEETINGS, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE310528  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JKORNBLUM:LR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760471-0855  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761215/aaaaamy.tel  
**Line Count:** 146  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS, STADIS  
**Reference:** 77 LONDON 20153  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH UK EMBASSY ON BERLIN-LONDON CHARTER PROBLEM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR  
**To:** BONN LONDON USBERLIN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006